

MALAWI CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

A VILLAGE-BASED ORPHAN CARE PROJECT

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2008



CHAKUNJA SIBALE'S 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Every year, Malawi Children's Village continues to grow both in impact and in physical infrastructure. 2008 was no exception. This report will give an overview of the highlights in the major thematic areas of intervention at MCV during the year.

Rehabilitation Center: As reported in last year's newsletter, the old Rehabilitation Center burned down on 13 July 2007. Efforts to reconstruct the building have yielded good fruits. Open Arms Infant Home, a UK based orphan support organization constructed a new, larger, Rehabilitation Center, which will accommodate between 40 and 60 infants at a time. Open Arms will manage the new center while MCV's outreach workers and volunteers will continue to identify sick infants in the villages, and to provide follow up care for infants after they have been released.



The new Rehabilitation Center

While construction of the new center was under way, the infants have been living in the renovated and expanded

clinic. Thanks to the many donors that made this renovation possible.

This year, five babies have been discharged and incorporated back to their relatives in the extended family system; five have died at the center.

We really appreciate the good work and donations of our many friends. Many of these infants are alive today because of your donations. We would like especially to thank the Dorothea Haus Ross Foundation for providing funds for fire fighting and kitchen equipment, and Dr. Paul Simon for his donation that was used to construct a cold room for milk and other perishables the infants need.



Students using calculators donated by Texas Instruments.

Gracious Secondary School: As in past years, MCV has been very active in the field of education during 2008. MCV continues to sponsor many orphans in secondary school. This year, all sponsored orphans in forms 1 through 3 (9th - 11th grade) studied at MCV's Gracious Secondary School, while sponsored form 4 orphans finished up in various schools across the country. Starting in 2009, all sponsored orphans will be studying at Gracious, which will add its final grade in 2009, becoming a full secondary school with 320 students.

Last year, it was reported that Gracious's first intake of students had just written the national examinations for form 2. We are pleased to report that 96% passed!! We are also pleased to report that the construction of an additional classroom block is nearing completion thanks to funds from Solace International.

Having mentioned the successes of the school it should also be mentioned that as the school grows, its needs grow as well. We are currently seeking donations for teacher salaries, books, desks, and other materials.

Post Secondary Education: Three students sponsored in post secondary education by MCV have recently graduated. Mike Besten worked at MCV's clinic for the past three months after finishing his medical training. He has now moved to a big hospital where he will work for another three months in order to finish his attachment period. Fatima Pichesi graduated late last year from Natural Resources College with a degree in Nutrition. She is currently working for HEEED, our partner organization in the district.

Dyson Magombo graduated with a degree in food security and irrigation. He is currently leading in the Village-to-Village Project (initiated by Kevin Denny) and is supported by the Seneca Falls Rotary Club. Like the other graduates, Dyson is really an asset to the communities and villages surrounding MCV.

Nine students continue their education at different universities, and colleges under MCV sponsorship thanks to the Rotary District 7120 Post Secondary Scholarship Fund and other donations.



Orphan Emmanuel Nthala on the Campus of Livingstonia College where he studies education



Vocational School graduates Annes Phiri and Thoko Sophiano (both OVC) now earn income by making and selling jewelry at MCV

MCV Vocational Training School:

The Vocational School continues to produce excellent results. During the past two examination sessions the

average pass rate for Motor Vehicle Mechanics, Carpentry and Joinery, and Brick Laying was 72%. In Information Technology the pass rate was an astounding 97%!!

The school continues attracting students from far and wide. Currently there are twelve students in Motor Vehicle Mechanics, five in Carpentry and Joinery, four in Brick Laying, eight in Information Technology, and one in Tailoring. Rural Livelihoods Support Program is sponsoring twelve of these students, who are classified as orphans or vulnerable children (OVC).

Six OVC which were under MCV sponsorship throughout their secondary school, were also sponsored in the Vocational School's Information Technology program last year. We are pleased to announce, all graduated and passed their examinations with distinctions and credits.



Students learn in new classroom

School to School Program:

Classrooms and pit latrines continue to be constructed at village primary schools thanks to funds from schools and rotary clubs in the USA.

[Visit our website to learn more.]

Health Clinic: As previously mentioned, the MCV Clinic underwent renovations that will allow it to be recognized by the government ministry of health. The clinic now has a dressing room, a consultation room, a pharmacy, a temporary bed rest room, a bathroom and a public health education room. As soon as we get a full time clinician, the clinic will be registered, allowing it to administer ARVs among other things.

In general more patients are still visiting the clinic with different infections. As usual the most common disease is malaria. Currently we are

still lacking adequate supplies of malaria drugs. It must be mentioned here that severe cases are always referred to Mangochi District Hospital for proper management and treatment.



Nurse Faith Sibale reaches for medicine in the new pharmacy

Village Outreach: The Outreach team continues to visit villages, run trainings for the village volunteers, follow up on orphans recovering from illness at home, and to identify and help solve problems in the villages. One of the problems identified by the outreach team is the looming hunger in some households. Reports by the government indicate that the country harvested enough maize this year, but this is only true at the national level. Some regions of the country, including MCV's catchment area experienced a short period of rains this year, and may face food shortages months before the next harvest. Prices of maize on the market have soared. The cost of a 50kg bag increased from \$6 to \$25. As usual this has had a great impact on

the workload of our volunteers and the outreach team.

The village volunteers network continues to be the backbone and long helping hand of MCV, through which the organization reaches its beneficiaries. Daylong trainings of the village volunteers continue to take place to ensure that this network remains strong. This year the periodic trainings were increased, since it was decided that the growth of the organization over the last 12 years threatened to de-emphasize the importance of the volunteers.

Areas in which the volunteers are trained include: Psychosocial, HIV/AIDS Sensitization, Home Based Care, Orphan Care, and Malaria Control and Bed Nets.



Village Volunteers during a training session in MCV's full circle studios.

Administration Office

Construction: We still have some money for the construction of the administration block whose foundation was laid four years ago. We will resume the construction after finishing the Rehabilitation Unit.



MCV's Director Chakunja Sibale taking a rare break.

Conclusion: As it can be noted, this year has seen a lot of developments taking place at MCV, it must be mentioned that every development is possible because of you people out there with hearts to assist and alleviate the suffering of Orphaned and Vulnerable Children. MCV will always work tirelessly to make the lives of these OVCs better. We don't take your support for granted.

THE MCV MALARIA PREVENTION PROJECT: A THIRD SUCCESSFUL YEAR

By Tom Vitaglione

During 2008, the MCV Malaria Prevention Project completed its third successful year! Malaria has long been the primary killer of pregnant women and young children in Malawi. In collaboration with the Malawian Government, in 2005 MCV began providing insecticide-treated bednets, along with education and follow-up, to pregnant women and young children in the orphan households of the 36 villages served by MCV.

To-date, more than 1,500 bednets have been distributed. An effective



Catherine Shebani inspects bednets in the village regularly

follow-up model has helped assure that more than 95% of the bednets are in

continuous, appropriate use. The really good news is that, after receiving bednets, monthly cases of malaria among recipients have been reduced by 70%. Malaria-caused deaths in young children have also been reduced by 70%.

This success story has cost less than \$5,000 a year, and has been supported by special donations from individuals and churches in the USA.

The Rotary District of Northwest Missouri has committed to fund the continuation and expansion of this project by getting participation from a large number of Rotary clubs throughout the district who have "adopted" specific villages by paying the prorated costs per village.

TREASURER'S REPORT YEAR END 2007

By Garry Prime

In spite of hurricanes that devastate our Louisiana Coast and Tsunamis that sweep thousands of homes into the sea, Malawi Children's Village remains a charity of choice for many faithful donors. Our ability to continue to grow and increase donations through "word of mouth" is astonishing and heartwarming. The financial crisis of 2008 will likely impact our ability to continue our growth trend, however we are all hopeful that donations will continue to flow in our direction.

We do our financial accounting on a cash basis and reconcile the books once a year. We are in the unique position of being able to audit our performance through a consolidation report compiled by Graham Carr in Malawi. This year, 2007, is the first year for this consolidated report process. The numbers to the right were compiled by our USA accountant and represent our USA and Malawi performance. Any questions can be submitted to me or any other member of the MCV board.

As I view our financial records and look back over the past 12 years, I am astounded at the amount of money we have been able to raise and the infrastructure we have built. The "we" in my comments is a collective we and it includes you!

Revenue Gains 2007		
Contributions		\$317,758
Interest		\$1,675
Total		\$319,433
Expenses		
Grants		\$282,717
Supplies		\$3,850
Total Program Services		\$286,567
Supporting Services		
Fund Raising		\$1,159
Accounting		\$1,024
Office		\$1,594
Travel		\$534
Total Supporting Services		\$4,311
Total Expenses		\$290,878
Net assets beginning		\$114,483
Net assets ending**		\$143,038

**As you all know, we do one major fund raiser per year and the ending balance shown on the financial statements is merely a reflection of the funds available for the start of the following year. We do not, nor have we ever had a surplus to carry-over.

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hello everyone,

I hope as you're reading this annual newsletter it reinvigorates your sense of deep satisfaction, and of gratitude, for being so involved in what we are accomplishing on the other side of the planet, in a small impoverished country so far removed from our daily lives.

I know this holiday season brings financial uncertainties, with all of us tightening our belts and genuinely concerned about what the new year will bring. But a quick look back at what has been accomplished at MCV will show just how much your contributions mean.

From that first meeting of 36 village leaders in 1997 under the mango tree, through the building of our rehabilitation center, to the creation of our seed bank, our irrigation programs, the building of the vocational and secondary schools, implementation of the malaria prevention program and on... We've helped to do something more than just simply save lives. We've brought hope to those lives and allowed orphans to dream, and more importantly, to start realizing those dreams!

As you're reading this, right now, please make a donation so we can continue building on the wonderful foundation you have all helped lay.

Zikomo! Zikomo!

Sincerely,

Ken Montgomery, Board President



Traditional Dancers help celebrate MCV's 10th Anniversary in 2007.



Nutritional Rehabilitation Unit / Nursery residents enjoying playtime outside on the MCV Campus.

Donors and Friends: It is hard to believe that Malawi Children's Village is in its 12th year of operation. While many things have changed and grown as the needs of the children we serve have evolved, one constant remains true; support of donors like you, combined with an outstanding and dedicated Malawian staff has overwhelmingly improved the lives and provided future opportunities for thousands of orphaned children in the southern Mangochi District of Malawi.

We are grateful for every donation of any size and will continue to be good stewards to ensure that MCV will be able to continue this important work as long as required. Thank you for your support of the children of Malawi, Zikomo!

MCV Board of Directors

Donations may be made by following the "Your help is needed" link at www.malawichildrens-village.com OR by filling out and submitting the form below with your check.

Malawi Children's Village is dedicated to improving the immediate conditions and future prospects of orphans and other vulnerable children in southern Malawi through village-based programs that respect and work within traditional structures.

YES! I want to make a real difference in the life of an orphaned child.

Enclosed please find my gift of:

_____ \$30 _____ \$50 _____ \$85
 _____ \$150 _____ \$300 _____ \$500
 Other (\$ _____)

Designation preference, *if any*:

_____ Wherever funds are most needed.
 _____ Gracious Secondary School
 _____ Other (*Please fill in:* _____)

Mail this form and donations to:

Alaska Community Foundation
 Malawi Children's Village Foundation Fund
 400 L Street, Suite 100, Anchorage, AK 99501

Please make checks payable to:

Malawi Children's Village Foundation, Inc.

Please provide us with the following information: Dr. / Mr. / Ms. / Mrs. (*please circle*)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ Suffix: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

May we send updates showing how your donation is making a difference? Yes / No (*please circle*)

Malawi Children's Village is a designated 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization incorporated in the State of New York. As such, your donation is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. For your records, MCV's Tax ID Number is 16-1526805. Thank you for your generous support. Zikomo!

What does your support of MCV really mean?

Here are a few examples of what can be accomplished with your support...

- \$8 can buy a blanket to keep as many as three children warm during cold nights
- \$30 can support one orphan for an entire year
- \$50 can buy anti-malarial medicine for 100 orphans
- \$75 can purchase a tire for a village outreach vehicle
- \$85 can purchase a treadle pump to be shared by several farmers to feed their families
- \$250 can pay for a new roof for a family housing one or more orphans
- \$300 can send one orphan to secondary school for a full year
- \$500 can build a home for a family caring for orphans
- \$500 can provide enough food for all the orphans in one village for an entire year

Did you know? Twenty-six sponsored orphans sat for the Form 4 (Grade 12) National Examinations in 2007, and out of these 24 passed representing 92%! (This percentage is especially impressive when compared with the national pass rate of 46%.) Three students did exceptionally well, and could be sponsored for further studies.



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c/o Conor Brady
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Please send changes in your postal or email address to bradyco@gmail.com or to the postal address above.

Visit us on the Web: Some readers will notice that our newsletter is shorter this year. This is not for lack of news to report! Find more on our website: www.malawichildrensvillage.com The site is updated frequently with stories and pictures by webmasters Jonathan Mtaula (an MCV sponsored orphan turned employee) and Peter Seyani. Visit the site to read stories from Tom and Frances Vitaglione's recent visit, more information on MCV's many projects, and much, much more!



Mission: Malawi Children's Village is dedicated to improving the immediate conditions and future prospects of orphans and other vulnerable children in southern Malawi through village-based programs that respect and work within traditional structures.



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